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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 000186

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/14/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [PHUM](#) [KU](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: KUWAIT WELCOMES U.S. RETURN
TO UNHRC

REF: STATE 018282

Classified By: Political Counselor Pete O'Donohue for reasons 1.4 b and
d

¶1. (C) POLCOUNS on March 2 delivered reftel demarche points informing Kuwait of a U.S. decision to resume participation as an active observer at the UN Human Rights Council and to discontinue participation in negotiations on the present draft outcome document for the Durban Review Conference. Dr. Hamad Bu Rahamah, Counselor in MFA's International Organizations Department, welcomed the news about the U.S. return to the UNHRC. However, in response to POLCOUNS' remarks concerning the UNHRC's unbalanced criticism of Israel, Dr. Bu Rahamah expressed the view that "Israel needs to respect its human rights commitments." He expressed no views on the Durban Review Conference.

¶2. (C) Bringing up this week's Sharm El-Sheikh donor conference for Gaza, Bu Rahamah said he was glad to hear that the U.S. is making a substantial financial commitment, but lamented that "now the world is paying for what Israel has done."

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